

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2636

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to State and tribal governments to assist State and tribal efforts to manage and control the spread of chronic wasting disease in deer and elk herds, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. McINNIS, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make grants to State and tribal governments to assist State and tribal efforts to manage and control the spread of chronic wasting disease in deer and elk herds, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Chronic Wasting Dis-  
5       ease Financial Assistance Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION AND FINDINGS.**

2 (a) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE DEFINED.—In this  
3 Act, the term “chronic wasting disease” means the animal  
4 disease afflicting deer and elk that—

5 (1) is a transmissible disease of the nervous  
6 system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain;  
7 and

8 (2) belongs to the group of diseases known as  
9 transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which  
10 group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform  
11 encephalopathy, and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease.

12 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

13 (1) The States retain undisputed primacy and  
14 policy-making authority with regard to wildlife man-  
15 agement, and nothing in this Act interferes with or  
16 otherwise affects the primacy of the States in man-  
17 aging wildlife generally, or managing, surveying, and  
18 monitoring the incidence of chronic wasting disease  
19 in animal populations.

20 (2) Chronic wasting disease is a fundamental  
21 threat to the health and vibrancy of deer and elk  
22 populations, and the increased occurrence of chronic  
23 wasting disease in the United States necessitates  
24 government action to manage and eradicate this le-  
25 thal disease.

1           (3) As the States and tribal government move  
2           to manage existing incidence of chronic wasting dis-  
3           ease and insulate non-infected wild cervid popu-  
4           lations from the disease, it is appropriate for the  
5           Federal Government to support their efforts with fi-  
6           nancial assistance.

7   **SEC. 3. STATE CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT**  
8                   **CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.**

9           (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the In-  
10          terior shall make grants to State wildlife management  
11          agencies to assist States in developing and implementing  
12          long term management strategies to address chronic wast-  
13          ing disease in wild cervids.

14          (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A wildlife management agency of  
15          a State whose comprehensive wildlife conservation plan in-  
16          clude chronic wasting disease management activities is eli-  
17          gible for a grant under this section.

18          (c) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In determining the  
19          amount of grant funds to be provided to eligible applicants  
20          under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants  
21          based on the following criteria:

22                (1) States in which chronic wasting disease has  
23                been detected and States located adjacent or in  
24                proximity to States in which chronic wasting disease  
25                has been detected.

1           (2) States that have expended State funds for  
2       chronic wasting disease management, monitoring,  
3       surveillance, and research, with additional priority  
4       given to those States that have shown the greatest  
5       financial commitment to managing, monitoring, sur-  
6       veying, and researching chronic wasting disease.

7           (3) States with comprehensive and integrated  
8       policies and programs focused on chronic wasting  
9       disease management between involved State wildlife  
10      and agricultural agencies and tribal governments,  
11      with additional priority given to States that have in-  
12      tegrated the programs and policies of all involved  
13      agencies related to chronic wasting disease manage-  
14      ment.

15          (4) States that are seeking to develop a rapid  
16      response capacity to address outbreaks of chronic  
17      wasting disease, whether occurring in States in  
18      which chronic wasting disease is already found or  
19      States with first infections, for the purpose of con-  
20      taining the disease in any new area of infection.

21      (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22      are authorized to be appropriated \$7,500,000 to carry out  
23      this section.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR STATES WITH CHRONIC WASTING DIS-**  
2 **EASE OUTBREAKS.**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the In-  
4 terior shall make grants to State wildlife management  
5 agencies to assist States in responding to chronic wasting  
6 disease outbreaks in wild cervids.

7 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A wildlife management agency of  
8 a State whose comprehensive wildlife conservation plan in-  
9 clude chronic wasting disease management activities is eli-  
10 gible for a grant under this section.

11 (c) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In determining the  
12 amount of grant funds to be provided to eligible applicants  
13 under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants  
14 based on the following criteria:

15 (1) State expenditures on chronic wasting dis-  
16 ease management, monitoring, surveillance, and re-  
17 search in response to management of an on-going  
18 outbreak.

19 (2) The number of chronic wasting disease  
20 cases detected in the State.

21 (3) The wild cervid population of the State.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
23 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry  
24 out this section.

1 **SEC. 5. TRIBAL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT**  
2 **GRANTS.**

3 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the In-  
4 terior shall make grants to tribal wildlife management  
5 agencies to assist Indian tribes in developing and imple-  
6 menting long term management strategies to address  
7 chronic wasting disease in wild cervids.

8 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A wildlife management agency of  
9 an Indian tribe whose comprehensive wildlife conservation  
10 plan include chronic wasting disease management activi-  
11 ties is eligible for a grant under this section.

12 (c) FUNDING PRIORITIES.—In determining the  
13 amount of grant funds to be provided to eligible applicants  
14 under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize applicants  
15 based on the following criteria:

16 (1) Tribal governments managing lands on  
17 which cervids with chronic wasting disease have been  
18 detected, or managing lands located adjacent or in  
19 proximity to lands on which cervids with chronic  
20 wasting disease have been detected.

21 (2) Tribal governments that have expended  
22 tribal funds for chronic wasting disease manage-  
23 ment, monitoring, surveillance, and research, with  
24 additional priority given to tribal governments that  
25 have shown the greatest financial commitment to

1 managing, monitoring, and surveying chronic wast-  
2 ing disease.

3 (3) Tribal governments with cooperative ar-  
4 rangements with Federal and State wildlife and ag-  
5 ricultural agencies and State governments, with ad-  
6 ditional priority given to tribal governments that are  
7 working with other involved agencies on issues of  
8 chronic wasting disease management.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 to carry out  
11 this section.

12 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION.**

13 The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out this Act  
14 acting through the Director, United States Fish and Wild-  
15 life Service. Funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall  
16 be administered through the Federal Assistance Program  
17 in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Not more  
18 than three percent of such funds may be expended for ad-  
19 ministrative expenses of the United States Fish and Wild-  
20 life Service to carry out this Act.

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